

TE-14-2 Raccoon Island Shoreline Protection/Marsh Creation

Coast 2050 Strategy – Region 3, Regional Strategy #14: Restore and maintain the barrier islands and gulf shorelines such as Isle Dernieres, Timbalier barrier island chains, Marsh Island, Point au Fer and Cheniere au Tigre.

Project Location - Region 3 – Terrebonne Basin – Terrebonne Parish. The westernmost island in the Isle Dernieres chain.

Problem – The Isle Dernieres barrier island chain is experiencing one of the highest rates of erosion of any coastal region in the world.

Goals – Primary objectives of this project are to protect the Raccoon Island rookery and seabird colonies from an encroaching shoreline by reducing the rate of shoreline erosion along the western end of the island, and creating 60 acres of habitat for birds along the northern shoreline.

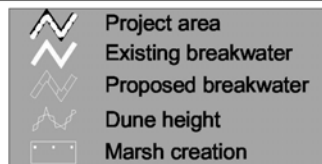
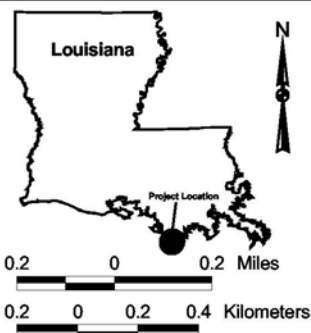
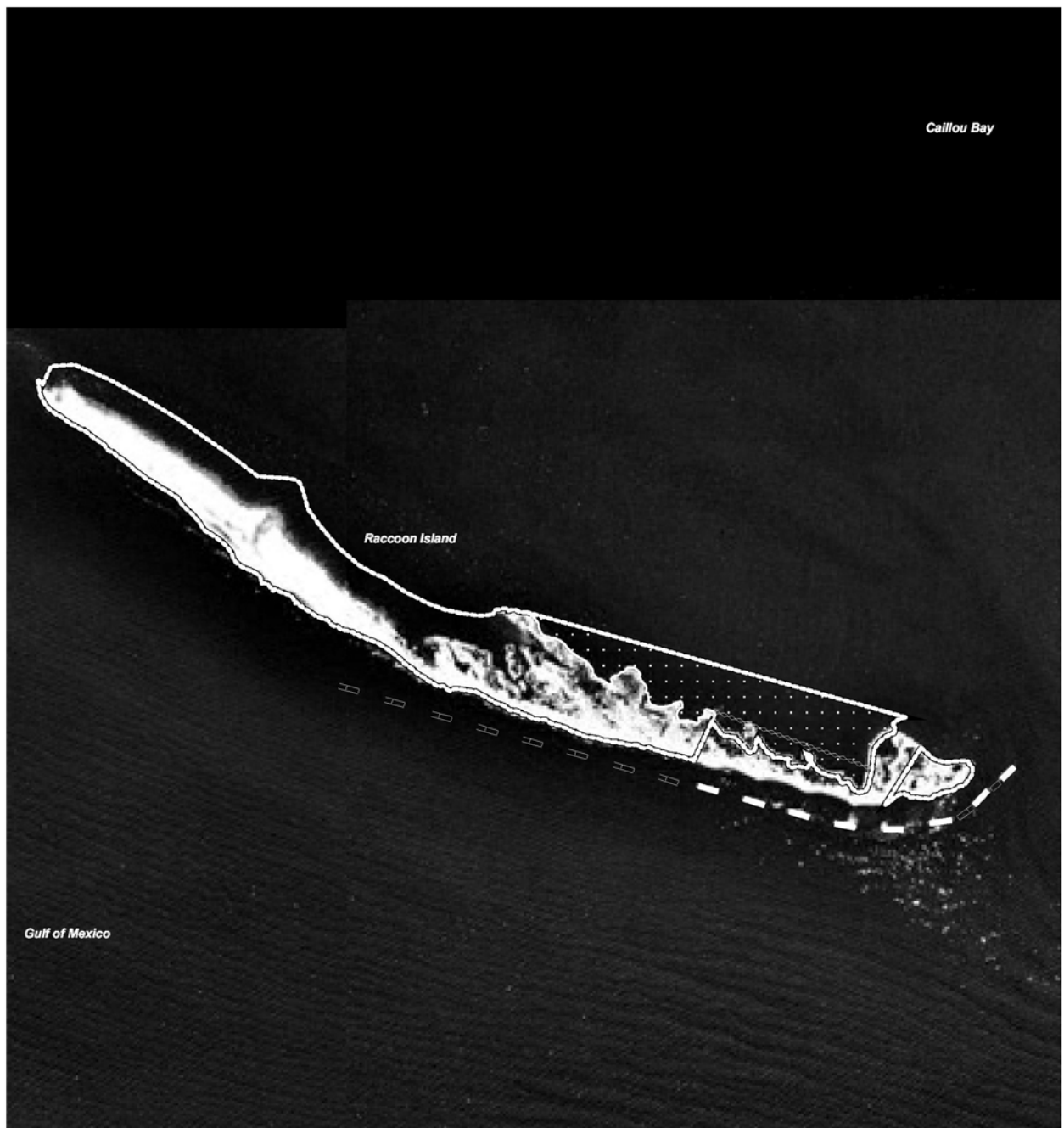
Proposed Solution – Construct eight additional segmented breakwaters along the gulf side of the island just to the west of the Raccoon Island Demonstration Project. Connect existing breakwaters numbers 0, 1, and 2 with rock riprap and construct an earthen dike between two peninsulas along the northern shore (bayside). Dredge sediment from the bay and place between the dike and the island. Created areas will be planted with herbaceous species and six woody species.

Project Benefits – This project would benefit approximately 327 acres of beach, shrub, saline marsh and shallow water. This project will protect/create of 167 acres over 20-years.

Project Costs – The proposed total fully funded cost is \$10,355,700 and the fully funded first cost is \$10,037,900.

Risk/Uncertainty and Longevity/Sustainability There is a low degree of risk associated with this project because it follows the same proven methods that have been achieved by the demonstration project and contains marsh creation with appropriate vegetative plantings. The project should continue providing benefits beyond 20 years after construction as a result of additional elevation and width, and gulf side protection afforded by the breakwaters.

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Data Source:
U.S. Geological Survey
National Wetlands Research Center
Coastal Restoration Field Station

LA Department of Natural Resources
Coastal Restoration Division
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Region 3

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